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The industrial system of a nation, as well as its political system, ought to be a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

The mad scramble of a mob of 25,000 people to secure claims in the just opened Indian land reservation in Oklahoma has offered another object lesson this week of the basis of all claims to property in land. There is but one original basis of property in land and that is a grab. If you trace back the title far enough you will never find anything but a grab at the end of it.

The ruinous effects of the demonetizing of silver are as visible in other parts of the world as in the United States. The currency of India is silver, and the decline in its value

in exchange with other countries since its demonetization has thrown business and trade in that country into confusion. The recent additional slump in the value of the metal is indeed said to threaten paralysis of Indian business, and has caused a general sentiment of resentment and indignation at the policy of the British government, among the Indian population, quite as serious as the revolt of the silver men in this country. The British press confesses that the situation is critical and the remedy not apparent. Nothing but some sort of international bi-metallic agreement seems to offer a way out, and that is something the British money interest will be slow to come to.

The Bid of the British Tories for the Support of a Farming Class.

Among the most extraordinary projects of legislation ever brought before the British Parliament are the Ashbourne act and the Chaplin agricultural holdings act, which undertake to lend the national credit on a vast scale to enable the Irish and English peasantry to buy farms from the landlords. The last-named of these two acts proposes that the government loan \$50,000,000 to the English county councils, to enable them to purchase farms from the landlords and sell them again on easy terms to would-be farmers.

That the conservative support for these measures does not result from any love for the people may be taken for granted. The measures in question are indeed intended much more for the relief of the tory landlords by enabling them to get rid at good prices of estates likely to be rendered worthless by agrarian discontent, than for the benefit of the people. There is, however, another motive behind the policy. It is the openly professed belief of the conservatives that the class of small landholders to be created by the operation of this act will be made conservative by their new possessions and constitute a body of voters which will oppose all steps in the direction of national land ownership or other socialistic measures. So great, indeed, is the anxiety beginning to be felt by the capitalistic class in Great Britain over the growth of the radical social reform party that no bribe seems too great to offer, which may secure popular support against the

advance of liberty, equality and fraternity. The organs of the English progressive and socialistic party, while pointing out the class selfishness and political calculation which secure conservative support for these seemingly generous loans to the agricultural population, emphasize also the wrong of using the government credit to enable any class, agricultural or other, to obtain a clutch, as individual owners, upon the land, which is the heritage of the whole nation. It is well enough, they say, to buy out the large land grabbers, but not for the sake of small land grabbers. The land bought up by the county councils, they rightly maintain, should be let out to the small holders at a rental to the community, not parted with to them in fee simple.

Meanwhile, from the American point of view, we are moved to remark that the English Tories, who fancy that they would be casting a political anchor to windward by creating a class of small landed proprietors, are probably reckoning without good ground. Before committing themselves to that policy they would do well to send a delegation through the agricultural regions of the western and southern United States, which they will find seething with a revolutionary ferment that has as yet scarcely reached the cities. The evolution of the capitalistic system is making small farming as impossible as are all other kinds of business on a small scale. If a contented class of small landholders is to be maintained in England, Parliament must not only buy them farms to start with, but make up its mind to pay their mortgages periodically to boot. Except under specially favorable circumstances, the "bonanza" farm, cultivated on a vast scale with the resources of unlimited capital, is the only sort that now pays or ever will again.

Just Plain Robbery and Nothing Else.

The defeat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, of the amendment to the bill authorizing the Connecticut river railroad to increase its stock, which required the new issue to be sold at public auction, was deplorable, not so much on account of that particular case as by reason of the principle involved. In the Senate, thanks to Mr. Merritt, the amendment will be again proposed, and we trust that body will reverse the mistake of the lower house and vindicate the moral character of Massachusetts.

It is a sad commentary on the manner in which our business system has debauched the public morals that the iniquitous method of private disposal of the stock of corporations having public franchises, should find apologists in any Legislature. Let us inquire precisely what this method means.

A corporation with a public franchise, say a water-works, lighting plant, street or steam railroad, desires to increase its capital by the issue of more stock. We will suppose that the occasion of the increase is a perfectly valid one, namely, a necessary extension of the plant and not expenses for repairs, or maintenance, or any other sham excuse for watering. Now, suppose the concern is making so much money that its stock is worth, as that of the Connecticut River railroad is, \$260 per share of \$100 par value. In this case the new stock, if offered at public auction and not excessive in quantity, would bring, probably, at least, \$200 for each share of stock sold. That is to say, supposing it be

proposed to raise \$2,000,000, which is about what the Connecticut River wants to obtain, it could be raised by the sale of 10,000 \$100 shares of stock, or 1000 \$1000 shares.

On the other hand, if the new issue of stock be left to private disposal, according to the judgment of the directors, the arrangement usually made in such cases when the stock is above par, and undoubtedly the arrangement that will be made by the Connecticut River road if the bill goes through, is to allot it among the present stockholders in proportion to the amount of stock held by them respectively, to be taken at the par value of \$100 or \$1000 a share.

In other words, the stockholders will be able to obtain stock worth \$200 per share, for a payment of \$100, and it will in consequence require the issue of twice as many shares of stock to obtain the required \$2,000,000, as would be necessary if the stock were sold at public auction.

What does this mean to the community? Why, simply this. The railroad is run for the purpose of paying the highest possible interest upon its securities. The volume of those securities is the basis of the taxation levied on the public in the form of freight and passenger rates. Every share issued means an enlarged basis of taxation and so much greater burden on the community. If the company raises a given sum of money by privately issuing to stockholders at par stock that would fetch twice the par value at public auction, it means that so far as that issue is concerned the community will be taxed in perpetuity upon a basis of twice the actual investment made.

This is robbery, and there is no other word for it.

The Philosophy of Competition.

A Harvard college student took his own life in New York city last Monday. He died, it seems, because he could find nothing to do. The places which he was fitted by education to fill were all occupied. Newspaper men have observed for several years past the growing tendency toward self-destruction among young Harvard students. The situation in the competitive field is enough to discourage any young man at the start, provided he has nothing to recommend him beyond his education and his purpose to act a manly part in life. If he is not selfish, he is handicapped in the struggle for self, which is the great aim in business and the professions.

This is quite as true of the professions as of the trades. We quote the following from a correspondent of the Medical Age:

I have endeavored to keep track of 100 of my medical friends after graduation, especially of what they did during the first five years, and find nearly 75 per cent had to resort to other employment to make a living. Twenty-three received a salary either in addition to practice or separate therefrom. Fifteen were proprietors of drug stores. Three were insurance agents. Four loaned money. One sold real estate. Three were connected with medical journals. One was agent for drugs. One for books. One preached. One was in the patent medicine business. Two were farmers. One a manufacturer. Two gave massage treatment. One sawed wood, and subsequently suicided. Twelve gave up in disgust, and one never tried to practice at all. Twenty-nine graduates only in one hundred exclusively devoted themselves to medicine, and of these, eleven associated themselves with other practitioners, and in many cases fell heir to their practice."

Much might be written about the waste of time and material in the training of 100 men to fill 27 places, leaving the rest to bushwhack for a living. This isn't scientific, nor is it just to the rising generation and to the community at

large. The young graduate, fresh from college, is confronted by a serious problem. The chances are largely against him, and we wonder that more do not throw their lives away in desperate careers.

The attitude of many wealthy people, so far as we can see, is very little removed from the Spanish don who, being asked to aid Cervantes, then wretchedly poor, replied: "Heaven forbid that his necessities should be relieved; it is his poverty that makes the world rich." This is the philosophy of competition in full bloom. It is based upon the theorem that the average man must be whipped and starved into action; while the fact is that the normal condition of humanity is action, and action grows noble and wise as opportunity is manly and just. The world cannot be made rich by the poverty of any class or of any individual, and political economists are beginning to see this.

The Conquest of Sugar Refining.

Why has any voter an excuse hereafter to say that combination means lower prices? The history of the sugar refineries is conclusive upon this point. The wholesale price of granulated sugar was four cents per pound before the trust had completed its conquest of the American refineries. Since its victory the price has gone up to 4½ cents, or \$19,000,000 in a year and this with a declining price for raw sugar, and economies incident to business co-operation, will make it possible for the directors to pass over to the stockholders and bondholders of the trust some 29 million dollars. In other words, the people of the United States are to pay yearly a little over \$2 per head for the luxury of having sugar refined by a trust. The government could do the whole business for less than eight million dollars. If sugar were a public monopoly, the injury to many private firms would be accepted as the price paid for benefits so marked and wide-spread; but what have the advocates of the competitive system to say when a private monopoly after crowding hundreds of men out of business, lays tribute upon every dining table of the land?

The Manufacturers against the Women and Children.

As usual the textile manufacturers turn up in strength before the Massachusetts Legislature to oppose any reduction of the hours of labor in factories. The woolen manufacturers' association leads the opposition this year with an elaborate memorial protesting against any relief to the women and little children, who form the bulk of the factory workers, on the ground that a reduction of hours from 60 to 58 per week will place Massachusetts mills at a disadvantage as compared with those of other states. This argument could, of course, be alleged with equal force against almost any proposition to ameliorate the condition of workers whether as to wages, safety devices or hours of labor. If it be admitted to be a valid argument it amounts to making the standard for the regulation of labor the most oppressive system that obtains in any state or community with which this state is in business competition, and puts an end to all possibility of improving the condition of labor. It means that the factory laws of the most backward state of the union are to be the pattern on which those of Massachusetts should be framed.

The sheer brutality of this line of argument seems partic-

ularly glaring in this instance because those against whom it is used are the most helpless and pitiable class of wage-workers, the women and children. Men workers in all the prominent trades have obtained or are seeking to obtain a reduction of the hours of labor from ten to nine, and even eight a day, but when it is proposed to reduce the ten-hour day of the woman and child worker in the factories by even the trifle of two hours in the week, the federated manufacturers of the state rise in opposition.

Selling Rights to tax the People.

The Philadelphia Press, having inquired into the question of liquor saloon profits under the system of restricted licenses adopted in that city, finds that the average annual profits of a saloon in a good location range from \$20,000 to \$50,000. A saloon that only clears \$5000 a year is considered a very poor business.

The Press wants the city to get a part of these profits, and proposes that in view of the fact that by restricting the number of licenses the municipality insures dealers a monopoly, it shall sell the licenses, like any other public franchises, to the highest bidders, and realize what it can.

The Press is on the wrong track entirely. Instead of going snacks with the saloon-keepers, the city should abolish them, establishing in their place public agencies for the sale of liquors at cost to sober persons, by agents having fixed salaries not dependent on the amount of sales. This whole business of creating private monopolies by giving away or selling exclusive franchises, is dead wrong always, whether it relates to water works, lighting, transit, or liquor selling. Such exclusive franchises, for whatever purpose given or sold, amount to nothing more nor less than licenses granted private parties to tax the community for their emolument.

The English Reformers give a Hint to the People's Party.

The prediction that the big strike and temporary suspension of production in the English coal mining region would bring to the front the proposal for nationalization of the entire coal mining business is being promptly fulfilled. The English press is now engaged in a lively debate of the question whether it is not time for the nation to take possession of the coal mines by its right of eminent domain and condemn them to the public use, to be hereafter operated by the people for the people, on the approved nationalistic program. The Daily News and Daily Chronicle, two of the great London dailies, view the proposition as a reasonable one, and what the London Echo says about the coal beds is so good, that as it equally applies to America, we quote a portion of it as follows:

These treasures are a common gift of nature to mankind. But a few have been permitted to take possession of them, and by so doing plundered the community. The landlords of England have no more moral right to coal beds under the soil than they have to the central fires of the globe, or to the sunlight which falls on the globe, or to the atmosphere which surrounds the globe. They have been permitted by a too easy and confiding people, who for long generations had no power over making laws or moulding the political life of the nation, to enjoy a monopoly. It is time that this monopoly should cease, and that the monopolists should surrender to the people what should never have been taken from the people.

Of course the British conservative papers are greatly alarmed, and find the proposition one of the most menacing

symptoms of the times. The poor old mossbacks will have to get used to symptoms a good deal more menacing before long, for the people are at last coming to their own.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, although an old-fashioned party paper, has seen a light on this coal question, and in answering the argument that there is no more reason why the government should manage coal mining than any other business, has this very quotable paragraph:

The advocates of government ownership of the coal beds might easily show that coal is absolutely essential to the existence of society as it is; that its supply is strictly limited; that it cannot be procured except at particular places; that a controversy between the private owners of coal beds and their workmen may imperil the very existence of hundreds of thousands who depend on manufacturers for their support, and the ordinary comfort of all who live in a cold climate. This is to say nothing of the possibility of combinations among coal bed owners to extort unreasonable prices from the people, which is so much taken from their power to buy other necessities.

Now, every argument which might be urged in England for nationalizing the coal mines, applies equally, and in fact much more forcibly in America. The league of the coal-barons and railroads which controls our coal supply is an oppression which the English do not know, while the inhumanity with which the American coal miners are treated is without a parallel in the conditions of labor in Great Britain. If the English people, who, on the whole, are decently served by the coal companies, are ready to demand nationalization on account of the inconveniences of a single strike, what are we Americans made of who endure the practices of the American coal monopolists?

The omission from the St. Louis platform of a plank demanding national regulation of the mining, distribution, and price of coal, was the most serious fault of that generally admirable document. The people's party is emphatically an anti-monopoly party, and that it should have passed over in its condemnation of monopolies the most atrocious and universally unpopular of the lot was a mistake both in principle and policy. Such a plank would have antagonized no single group in the country except the mine-owners themselves, and would have brought hundreds of thousands of votes to the party.

It is to be hoped on every account that the omission of St. Louis may be remedied by at least a resolution at Omaha. We want the votes of the coal miners and coal consumers.

Ought such a System to Exist?

A local item in the New York Press of recent date states that a widow by the name of Laura Hanson, who supported three little children by washing and sewing in a fourth floor back tenement, having fallen nine days behind in her rent, was turned out on the sidewalk. The children were all girls, the oldest nine, the youngest two. There was nothing noteworthy about the item. It was one of a hundred similar ones that appear from day to day, and one of a thousand that do not get into print at all.

An item in a New York paper of the same date stated that the daughter of Hugh McLaughlin, the so-called boss of Brooklyn, had been obliged to construct a burglar proof vault in her residence for the storage of her wedding presents, which amounted to over a quarter of a million of dollars in value.

Is any one so fatuous as to believe that a social system

under which such disparities of condition exist, can long continue? Is any one so wicked as to wish that it should continue?

Public Policy demands Coal at Cost.

One of the chief elements in England's industrial and commercial greatness has been her cheap coal. The bill for fuel is the main item in the cost of production by steam power, and the nation with the cheapest coal supply can compete successfully with all others. The United States has larger and richer coal beds than any country on earth, and coal should be cheaper in this country than anywhere else, and would be if private corporations were not permitted to seize upon these fountain heads of national prosperity, and by an artificial restriction of production maintain prices at from twice to three times, and often four times, the cost of production.

This policy, which is of equal magnitude as a moral outrage and an economic folly, should cease. The nation should, without longer delay, take possession of the coal mines, and, as a matter of high public policy and national economy see to it that the product is furnished at cost.

Editorial Notes.

The financial editor of the New York Times has noted the fact that the failure of crops in Europe and the large crops in America have not benefited the American farmer. To him this is another evidence of the beauties of the competitive system and the brotherhood of man. This curiosity in opinion will not make very comforting reading for the western farmer. If even a grain famine in Europe does not boom American prices, the competitive system must have a screw loose somewhere. Good crops abroad, upon the other hand, are sure to lower prices of grain. So the brotherhood of man as under the system maintained by the two old parties is not popular this year in the West.

United States Senator Hoar says that President Harrison cannot secure the best men for the bench as they draw princely salaries as corporation attorneys. If it were not a question of money Mr. Edmunds would probably have been a United States supreme court judge years ago. He receives \$25,000 a year as attorney for certain transcontinental railroads. Civil Service Commissioner Thompson resigned last week to become controller of the New York Life Insurance company. It is a very common thing for judges to retire, as Dillon of New York did, in order to enter the service of corporations. A system that deteriorates the quality of public office-holders and strengthens the personnel of private money-making companies is contrary to public policy, and it is high time to ask the question whether the government machinery of the United States is to be anything but an outrider in the equipage of the money king!

MUNICIPAL FUEL YARDS.

There has been such a call for the argument of Henry R. Legate before a committee of the Massachusetts Legislature in favor of a municipal fuel yard law, that we have put it into an eight-page pamphlet; and through the liberality of a Boston nationalist, we are able to send copies free to any of our subscribers or others upon the receipt of stamp for postage.

A GARDEN AND A GRAVE.

Ye friends to truth, ye statesmen, who survey
 The rich man's joys increase, the poor's decay,
 'Tis yours to judge how wide the limits stand
 Between a splendid and a happy land.
 Proud swells the tide with loads of freighted ore,
 And shouting Folly hails them from her shore;
 Hoards, e'en beyond the miser's wish, abound,
 And rich men flock from all the world around.
 Yet count our gains; this wealth is but a name
 That leaves our useful products still the same.
 Not so the loss; the man of wealth and pride
 Takes up a space that many poor supplied;
 Space for his lake, his park's extended bounds,
 Space for his horses, equipage and hounds;
 The robe that wraps his limbs in silken sloth,
 Has robb'd the neighboring fields of half their growth;
 His seat, where solitary sports are seen,
 Indignant spurns the cottage from the green;
 Around the world each needful product flies,
 For all the luxuries the world supplies:—
 While thus the land, adorn'd for pleasure all,
 In barren splendor feebly waits its fall.

As some fair female, unadorn'd and plain,
 Secure to please while youth confirms her reign,
 Slights every borrow'd charm that dress supplies,
 Nor shares with art the triumph of her eyes;
 But when those charms are past—for charms are frail—
 When time advances, and when lovers fail,
 She then shines forth, solicitous to bless,
 In all the glaring impotence of dress;
 Thus fares the land, by luxury betray'd;
 In nature's simplest charms at first array'd;
 But verging to decline, its splendors rise;
 Its vistas strike, its palaces surprise;
 While scourged by famine from the smiling land,
 The mournful peasant leads his humble band,
 And while he sinks, without one arm to save,
 The country blooms—a garden and a grave.

[FROM GOLDSMITH'S "Deserted Village."]

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IN ENGLAND.

[John Burns, labor leader, in the Nineteenth Century Magazine. It will be remembered that £1 is about \$4.84, or roughly \$5.]

Glasgow, in order to get its water, gas, markets, and tramways, in the last 35 years has contracted a debt of 3,151,544*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* By means of that debt it now possesses assets of the value of 4,028,851*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*; it expends a yearly sum of 618,000*l.*, and receives a revenue of 700,000*l.*

Under the private ownership of its water supply, Glasgow citizens had to pay a 14*d.* rate for a restricted supply of diluted sewage. Since the transfer has been made to the corporation by purchase, Loch Katrine has been drawn upon, and by a bold, generous, and profitable scheme the 14*d.* rate has been reduced to 6*d.* per 1*l.* rental; and it is computed that the 6*d.* rate is entirely neutralised by the saving effected over the old system and supply, by the clean soft water that saves its cost in soap, soda, and other ingredients not now required for domestic and industrial purposes. Four hundred gallons are supplied for 1*d.*—7*s.* 6*d.* per annum for a house at 15*l.* rental as against double that price in London.

Beyond this cheap, clean, constant supply from cloudland

itself, Glasgow—that was to be ruined by this enterprise—is rapidly paying off its original debt from its net profit, after interest, depreciation, and extensions are provided for; and its assets on the water supply and works exceed the rapidly diminishing debt by 600,000*l.* The assets are 2,637,691*l.* 10 *s.* 2*d.*; the debt 2,047,585*l.*

What a different tale does London tell from the municipal enterprise of Glasgow on this question! London pays 1,700,000*l.* for water that costs the companies only 700,000*l.* This surplus of 1,000,000*l.*, or two thirds of the London County Council's rate-earned income, is the exaggerated rent of ability and interest that private companies are allowed to take from Londoners for a water supply that is rightly the corporate property of the people whom they supply.

In the supply of gas by municipalities what do we find? That per ton of coal carbonised, and cubic feet of gas produced therefrom, the municipalised gasworks all over Britain show a cheaper and better result than private works. The price of municipal gas is less by that large amount spread over all the consumers which the shareholders only divide where companies provide. The works of municipalities are kept in better order and repair, the approaches are tidier and cleaner. Their employees are better treated than where private ownership prevails.

Glasgow takes from its gas works a yearly revenue of 483,000*l.* Its expenditure is 430,000*l.*; its diminishing debt is 580,000*l.*; its increasing asset is 780,000*l.*; and all this notwithstanding it now pays 50 to 75 per cent more for its coal. Its output is 170 per cent greater than when under private control. Its leakage is 50 per cent less, the illuminating power the same, and its price reduced from 4*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*, although wages have gone up and the three-shift system has been introduced.

London, in contrast to this prosperity, allows its lighting to yield over 1,000,000*l.* profit to private firms.

On its tramways, Glasgow has even a better record than on its water and gas. The Corporation has built 32 miles which it has previously leased to a company, but which will not be renewed again in 1894; 3 per cent has been paid to the Corporation for redemption of the original debt contracted for building the lines; four per cent has been paid by the company for renewals; 150*l.* per annum per mile has been paid by the company as rent. In 21 years 490,000*l.* has been paid by the company, 150,000*l.* more than the total cost, exclusive of an average of eight per cent dividend taken by the company in that period.

This latter fruitful source of revenue will henceforth be appropriated by Glasgow, and good results will follow in better conditions for employees, cheaper fares, and better communication, and, what is equally important, single ownership of the roads and trams.

Upon the question of municipal lodging-houses Mr. Prothero is equally unfortunate. It is true that the Council wisely decided to build a better building than it originally intended—even common lodging-houses should be well-built and artistic—and if in so doing it has not catered for the very lowest, who cannot afford to pay the additional penny for a better class of accommodation, this can soon be got over by providing another less costly building, which some day must be followed by free nightly shelters for the

absolutely destitute, not as a matter of pauperising charity, but as a social necessity.

In Glasgow the seven lodging-houses for men and women produce a yearly rent profit of 4,164*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, or four and three fourths per cent on cost and maintenance. There, in water, gas, tramways, and housing, in its markets, and also in the Corporation widening, deepening, and improving the docks and adapting the river Clyde to its trade, the Progressive municipal policy has falsified all the pessimistic predictions urged against it. The motto of this enterprising city is "Let Glasgow flourish!"

This it has done, and its present municipal prosperity has only been realised as it has taken the up grade to Municipal Socialism.

The London Progressives, with sensible foresight and municipal inspiration, believe that what Glasgow and Birmingham have achieved, London can surely attempt and will speedily accomplish. Let London live! must henceforth be London's motto; and live it only can when its monopolies have been absorbed by its municipality and 'its middlemen have ceased from troubling and the jobber is at rest.'

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF PENN. COAL MINES.

Mr. Powderly makes a Telling Statement.

Some time ago Mr. Powderly proposed that the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania be taken and operated by the United States government in the interest of all the people. The comments upon this utterance give Mr. Powderly a text for another article upon this great question in which he says:

"Not one of them gave a moment's consideration to the fact that Pennsylvania has locked up within her borders the only real anthracite coal that the United States can produce; that this coal is shipped to every corner of the nation; and that every state in the Union is as much interested in the equitable adjustment of coal-deals as Pennsylvania. The real sinew and bone of the article was overlooked, while its covering was discussed in a rather sarcastic fashion. Of course, they all agreed that it was socialism to hint at the ownership of the coal fields by the government. The Washington Post declared that I advocated 'rampant paternalism,' while the Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph said: 'This is completely in harmony with the doctrines of the socialists, and entirely at variance with all Mr. Powderly's previous utterances.'

"Since then a change has been working its way upward, if I may so speak, in society, and the leaven of socialism has been stirring around in the vicinity of Wall street. It is true that the agitation which followed the publication of 'Looking Backward' may have caused much of the change in sentiment, but, whatever may have caused it, the harshest criticism of my recent Marlboro assertion (that the coal fields should be owned and operated by the government at cost) was that 'he went the nationalists one better in advocating government ownership and management of the coal fields of Pennsylvania.' Socialism it was called in 1888; today it is dignified by the title of nationalism; but it is the same idea running its length, increasing in strength as it goes, and making converts at every step. The latest con-

vert to the doctrine of equity in the management of the coal deposits is Mr. Henry Clews, banker and stock-broker of Wall street. Mr. Clews has given the subject much thought and expresses himself in these words:

The constant tendency in all civilized communities is toward cheapening of production. Year by year clothing costs less, and coal ought to cost the consumer less. The main reason why it does not cost less is that trade in coal is not strictly free; nearly every ton that comes to market is loaded with a tax that is imposed upon it by the necessity of paying somebody interest on the par bonds that were sold from 90 per cent all the way down to 30 to raise money to pay schemers' prices for coal mines and coal, form companies and worthless branch railroads. Over the great anthracite deposits of Pennsylvania has been erected during the slow years a rickety mass of corruption, reckless financiering, insolvency and ultimate conspiracy against the rights of the public. To attempt to reconstruct this toppling edifice would be useless; and the efforts of syndicates and bankers to lift it up into symmetry and strength, resolve themselves into mere stock-jobbing tricks, with cupidity as the jackscrew. But the deposits themselves are perfectly honest and healthy. There they repose under the earth's surface, untainted by fraud, and the firm friend of the people. The state should own them, and should farm them out to those people who will distribute them to dealers and consumers at the lowest competitive prices.

"These are brave words from a banker, and, in the name of all the real socialists, cranks and nationalists in the land, I tender a vote of thanks to Mr. Clews.

"The Eighteenth demand of the preamble of the Knights of Labor is: 'That the government shall obtain possession, by purchase, under the right of eminent domain, of all telegraphs, telephones and railroads.'

"Until that is done the nineteenth demand — 'To establish co-operative institutions, such as will tend to supersede the wage system, by the introduction of a co-operative industrial system' — will be made in vain, for, with the avenues of transportation through which the product of the co-operative institutions must be sent to market in the hands of those who bitterly oppose co-operation, it will always be possible to discriminate against them and in favor of some stock-watered concern, which will exist only to enrich a syndicate or an individual at the expense of many. To ask that the railroads and telegraphs be owned by the government and not call for government ownership of that which almighty God created for the use of ail — the coal — would be folly, and the people everywhere should take up the cry of Henry Clews and insist on the government asserting its right to assume control and possession of the coal fields."

THE WAGE SYSTEM OF LABOR.

[John Clarke Ridpath in the Occident.]

The wage-system of industry is about at an end. Civilization has reached a stage which will no longer tolerate the purchase and sale of human labor. The law of evolution is working here as elsewhere.

Time was when slavery went unchallenged. Time is when even the system of wage-hire is challenged. Time was when capital was capable of purchasing not only labor, but the laborer. This was simply the right of perpetual hire. The purchase and sale applied to the man himself, and thereby he became a slave. In a certain stage of social evolution such usage is natural, perhaps inevitable. At such a time to say that one man may not buy another, provided he be able to pay for him, is to say what seems to

that age to be a monstrous thing. Nor will society permit such utterance against her custom and her law.

But slavery has been challenged and sent to its own place. This done, capital and labor were thrown upon a new ground. The principle of man-ownership was given up, and in its stead was established the principle and practice of wage-hire. The man was no longer sold, but his labor only. One man might no more buy another man as to his body, and muscles and brain, but only the exertion, the labor of that other man. Thus instead of slavery came the prevalent system of wages — the sale and purchase of human toil.

This system has become prevalent not at once, but by degrees. It arose at an early age. In many countries it has co-existed with bond service, selfdom, slavery. Logically, however, it succeeds bondage and man-ownership in the order of evolution. Slavery belongs to an earlier period in human development. It is an incident of the agricultural stage in the evolution of the civilized life. Wherever men have given themselves to the production of great staples, in a low-lying level country, there slavery has suggested itself as the most available method of industry. When the agricultural stage begins to give place to an epoch of manufactures and commerce, then wage-hire takes the place of slavery. We are now in the age of competitive manufacture and speculative commerce. Concomitant with this we have the wage-system of industry. Slavery has been discarded, and wage-hire substituted for man-ownership and bondage.

With this change there has come also a change in name. Men have flattered themselves by naming the wage-system free labor. Our own country has fondly imagined that by substituting the purchase of labor for the purchase of men emancipation has come; that thus has been attained the freedom of the laborer as well as of the capital that buys his industry.

Without doubt there is good ground for preferring wage-hire to human bondage; but this by no means implies that the wage-system is the final form which civilization will invent, or that men will be satisfied forever with the buying and selling of their productive power. As a matter of fact the increasing enlightenment of the age has brought a knowledge of the injustice, hardships, cruelty and universal unhappiness springing out of the wage-hire system. There is an agitation reaching down to the sea-bed of humanity and if we mistake not, the purchase and sale of human labor as a commodity of the market can not much longer continue.

The reason of this is that labor is not, as men say, a commodity. Herein has been the great mistake. In attempting to systematize the laws of production the political economists have chosen to consider labor as a commodity, subject to the laws of matter and value in the market. This assumption has been accepted without scrutiny, as though it were an axiom.

As a matter of fact it is no such thing. It is amazing to reflect upon the harm to humanity and the blight to progress which have come through a failure to recognize the truth that labor is not logically, or in fact a commodity at all.

Is labor a product? Is it a thing which results objectively from human exertion? Is it tangible? Can it be

weighed, or seen, or measured? Certainly not. Corn is a product, and beef, and implements, and vehicles, and clothing. These things have been produced by labor; nor may they be classified as labor, or as a thing of the same kind.

Labor is a part of the laborer. It is himself in action. It is impossible to conceive it as separated from him. To buy labor is to buy a part of the laborer; that is, a part of a man — not all of him, but a part. To regard labor as a product, to sell it and to buy it, are acts so nearly akin to the sale and purchase of human beings as to give us a shudder!

Labor enters into every product, just as capital enters into it. They combine in it. You cannot withdraw the one from it more than the other. You cannot sell the labor out of it any more than you can sell the capital out of it.

These ideas, which can be here no more than merely stated in words, are acting as a ferment in the thought and hope of our age. They are as yet not consciously, but unconsciously entertained. They are entering the consciousness of the people. They will presently become spoken and written thought, and will then take form in that great change which is to mark the end of the wage system of industry and bring in the system of co-operation.

Co-operation shall supervene in the place of that cruel system which has bartered and sold the labor of human beings as though it were an objective material product. No problem of today is more important than that of the safe and easy transference of society from the wage-system of industry to the system of peaceable and universal co-operation.

MASSACHUSETTS KNIGHTS OF LABOR MAKE A STAND AGAINST MONOPOLIES.

The state convention of the Massachusetts Knights of Labor, held in Boston last Tuesday, passed the following resolutions: "Whereas, A bill is now pending before the Legislature providing for the consolidation of companies chartered for the purpose of supplying gas and electricity to the people, it being a scheme to transfer the present iniquitous monopoly from illegal to legal grounds, and to permit the absorption of all the gas companies in Boston into a gigantic monopoly, therefore be it Resolved: that the Knights of Labor of Massachusetts, in convention assembled, earnestly protest against any legislation in the direction that will tend to further encroach upon the rights of the people, and place them more completely in the hands of a monopoly already so powerful as to be inimical to the public welfare.

Resolved: That until such time as the demonetization of both gold and silver shall be made, the Massachusetts State Assembly of the Knights of Labor declares itself in favor of the free coinage of American silver, as a step toward the accomplishment of section 14 of our preamble (establishment of government banks), and that we declare false the representations made in the public press that the working people of Massachusetts are opposed to this measure."

So live thou here that when thy life is fled
No one may say of thee, "This man is dead."

HAFIZ.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly;
They build a nation's pillars deep,
And lift them to the sky.

EMERSON.

NATIONALISM AND POLITICS.

THE POT BOILING IN GOOD SHAPE.

Little desire to fuse and a determination all along the line to fight monopoly in every form. Note and Comment.

We have direct word from Kansas that the reported fusion in that state is between the leaders of the two old parties, and not between the democratic and people's party. We have suspected as much. The people's party in Kansas will get the bulk of the democratic voters in any event. The democratic leaders may do as they think fit in this emergency. This is a year when the leaders are trailing in the rear. The people are rising.

Congressman Watson of Georgia says that no power on earth can now keep Georgia from going into the electoral college with the people's party delegation.

Mr. Powderly has set a rapid pace for the selfish politician. "I ask you in all sincerity," he writes to Sec. Schilling in reference to the "mention" of his name as a presidential candidate on the people's party ticket, "to put a stop to that nonsense." Mr. Powderly prefers to work for the platform rather than pull wires for himself. He is right. Scoring for personal position is very bad form in a reformer.

Permit The New Nation to warn the electors of this country against the assurance of the old party papers that the people's party cannot break established political lines in a presidential year. It is already doing it. The latest break in that line is in Georgia, where Congressman Thomas E. Winn of the 9th district has withdrawn from the democracy and joined the new party. Mr. Winn, in his letter explaining the situation as he sees it, says:

"I did not expect that all our demands would be obtained at once, because all reform in our national legislation moves slowly. In the light of recent developments, I cannot close my eyes to the fact that the money power of this country absolutely controls both political parties in the East, and there is no possible hope of that wing of the party giving the people any relief. Indeed, I can see no difference between the eastern democrats and the eastern republicans on this financial issue. In view of these facts, if our people decide that it is necessary for us to act independently of the national democratic party in order to obtain these demands, I stand ready to go with my people, and say in the language of Ruth to Naomi, 'Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee.'"

Running Notes.

It will be well to keep an eye upon Texas. It will be remembered that in several counties the democratic committees have resigned and gone into the people's party. This was the republicans' opportunity. They have nothing to lose and everything to gain in Texas. The first step in the republican game seems to have been taken at Dallas last week, when a republican convention of 300 delegates

met without a negro present. An exclusively white republican convention in the South is an anomaly. This is done to forage on the ruins of the democracy. We shall see. The people's party must be reckoned with this year.

Burlington (Ia.) workingmen, organized under the people's party banner, have elected their candidate for mayor. The argument of the old parties,—"do not throw your ballot away by voting for a third party,"—is losing its virtue this year.

The passing of republican papers over to the new party in Kansas makes of itself a chapter in reform upheavals. It is a rare week that does not bring one or two republican papers into the new party. The Concordia Blade announces its change in this laconic sentence: "We are in the fight to the finish. Our readers have preceded us." Another paper having been in the people's party long enough to feel how good it is to be true to conviction thus welcomes the Blade: "We have been there. One can fight hard when he knows that he fights for the oppressed."

The Cincinnati Enquirer is a democratic paper in good standing, and it remarks sorrowfully: "Recent events in Congress and country have been contributing to make the new party a great power in the future of this country. It may become an all important factor in the election for president."

A call for people's party caucuses throughout New York state has been issued, and it is probable that a state convention will be held at Buffalo the first week in June.

California Meetings.

The Santa Cruz County Farmers' alliance and people's party men met at Santa Cruz last week and joined the people's party. Delegates were chosen to the state convention. The St. Louis platform was ratified and a county platform adopted in which was this plank:

"Resolved, That in order to save the people the exasperating delays and enormous expense of billion-dollar congresses and boodle legislatures, we do hereby recommend that the people decide those questions of public ownership of the railway and telegraph by popular ballot direct, thereby removing the corrupting influence of railway corporations in defeating the will of the people."

All the southern counties have held people's party conventions, and the outlook for an active campaign is brilliant.

The St. Louis Convention Address to the Public.

This, the first great labor conference of the United States and of the world, representing all divisions of urban and rural organized industry, assembled in national congress, invoking upon its action the blessing and protection of Almighty God, puts forth to and for the producers of the nation this declaration of union and independence.

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation. We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the Legislatures, the Congress and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized. Many of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places in order to prevent universal intimidation or bribery.

The newspapers are subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished and the land concentrated in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied

the right of organization for self-protection, imported pauperized labor beats down their wages, a hiring standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down and they are rapidly degenerating European conditions.

The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes, unprecedented in the history of the world, while their possessors despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes — paupers and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents and is taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once, it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

In this crisis of human affairs the intelligent working people and producers of the United States have come together, in the name of peace, order and society, to defend liberty, prosperity and justice.

We declare our union and independence. We assert our purpose to vote with that political organization which represents our principles.

We charge that the controlling influences dominating the old political parties have allowed the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious effect to restrain or prevent them. Neither do they now intend to accomplish reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff; so that corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stocks, the demonetization of silver and the oppressions of usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes and children upon the altar of mammon; to destroy the hopes of the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the great lords of plunder.

We assert that a political organization, representing the political principles herein stated, is necessary to redress the grievances of which we complain.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birth of the illustrious man who led the first great revolution on this continent against oppression, filled with the sentiment which actuated that grand generation, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of the "plain people," with whom it originated. Our doors are open to all points of the compass. We ask all honest men to join with and help us.

In order to restrain the extortions of aggregated capital, to drive the money changers out of the temple, to form a perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity, we do ordain and establish the following platform of principles:

The Platform.

We declare the union of the labor forces of the United States, this day accomplished, permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Wealth belongs to him who creates it. Every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and urban labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

Money.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound, and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender

for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; a just, equitable means of circulation, at a tax not to exceed two per cent., as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all national and state revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government, for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people, and to facilitate exchange.

Land.

The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Transportation.

Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity for transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

Resolved, That we hail this conference as the consummation of the perfect union of the hearts and hands of all sections of our common country. The men who wore the gray and the men who wore the blue meet here to extinguish the last smoldering embers of civil war in the tears of joy of a united and happy people, and we agree to carry the stars and stripes forward forever to the highest point of national greatness.

We demand that the question of universal suffrage be submitted to the Legislatures of the different states and territories for favorable action.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FIRST NATIONALIST CLUB, BOSTON.

The Boston Nationalist club No. 1 held its monthly meeting on the sixth at 184 Boylston street, L. J. Bridgman of Melrose in the chair. Capt. Bowers submitted the report of the committee appointed to protest at the state house against the building of the proposed Cape Cod ship canal, and to favor its being built by the state or nation. An amendment to the club constitution was accepted providing a reference, to committee, for one week of all resolutions committing the club for or against any legislative measure. Prof. Parsons of Boston university law school delivered another of his admirable address, analyzing in the light of nationalism the views of Mill and Spencer on personal liberty, and the province of the state. It is understood that the joint committee of the Legislature having the Cape Cod canal matter in charge has voted to grant the petition of Scott Randall and others for a charter to build the canal as a speculation. Some steps should at once be taken to head off this money-making scheme by private parties.

THE WEEK IN THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

The lower branch of the Massachusetts Legislature has passed a bill making 10 hours a legal working day for railroad employees. The committee on street railways reported against requiring the West End company to keep a record of accidents occurring on its road.

DISSOLVING VIEWS OF POVERTY.

The New Nation gave an account some time ago of a Chicago banker who investigated the charitable institutions in the disguise of a poor man. He found that so far as organized charity was concerned, charity in Chicago was little more than a name. Another rich man, this time a Connecticut millionaire has been sampling Chicago from the standpoint of a day laborer and will soon put his experiences into a book. Says a Chicago Times: "He went to one of the factories, where a big crowd of unemployed workmen were gathered and succeeded in getting work as an unskilled laborer. All that day he worked without getting any food and when night came he was almost exhausted. He had with him letters of introduction to the proprietor of this very factory, and has since taken dinner at the residence of the man in whose establishment, as a half-starved tramp, he first got work in Chicago. After six weeks he left this employment and looked for a job elsewhere. During the winter he has worked in several large factories, living among the poor, taking part in their meetings, and being, as nearly as possible, one of them. He has penetrated into the slums and studied the dark side of Chicago life in all its features. He has also attended the meetings of socialists and labor men and taken part in their deliberations."

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Postmaster Wanamaker Interviewed.

"There are 160,000 employees under me, and there are 66,000 post offices. To take that department and make it what I conceive it ought to be would be the labor of a lifetime. I do not believe it ought to be a cabinet position at all; the true head of it ought to be a director-general, superintendent, or actuary, who should have nothing to do with the political distribution of the post offices, or rather should have everything to do with his subordinates, and should be relieved from politics. A great proportion of the cases that come there ought to be settled at the desk instantly without passing through any red tape or delay. For instance, you came in to see me the other day, before we became acquainted, on the subject of changing the name of an obscure post office in order to conform to the name of the station house at that railroad stop. The request was proper, and yet you had been waiting a long time to have all that pass through inspectors and bureaus. I ordered it changed, for it was common sense, and that would end it. Now, I say that a man over that vast department ought to be a judge of the whole law and life of it and not be called aside to spend an hour or two to hear a delegation on the subject of who should be postmaster of a third-rate post office. Yet that is the main function of the postmaster-general. The Congressmen must some time or other be set aside as givers of postmasterships.

"I would have the country divided into postoffice districts, over each of which would be a postoffice supervisor, whose business it should be to inform himself in regard to the efficiency of postmasters and the changes in the post-offices. At present, as you know, Congressmen make nominations at every change of administration to every grade of postoffice. In a large proportion of cases there is no reason for moving a postoffice out of the principal store of the town where, perhaps, it has been for years, to locate it in some tin shop or saddler's shop merely that the assorting of the letters may be a job in politics.

"A good salary, not less than \$1,000 a month, should attach to the permanent comptroller of the postoffice. A change such as I have described would at once remove from

politics the vast body of the patronage and be worth more than all the civil service reform hitherto attempted. I do not believe that I favor a postoffice which earns a revenue out of the people, as the British postoffice does. You must also consider that the departments of this government do a vast postoffice business between each other without paying postage; indeed, if this free business of the government was paid for in stamps the postoffice would be self-sustaining every year. How can any man in his brief term develop a general policy over such an institution as the postoffice? It ought to be a non-political place, governed by a permanent and experienced mind who understands it like a gigantic piece of mechanism."

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

Cincinnati (O.) Post: "The American Economic association, composed mostly of professors of political economy, says that 'the present corruption of city councils by those possessed of franchises far exceeds any corruption under city ownership.' This opinion is the result of a special investigation made by the association under private ownership. It was found that in many cases large sums had gone to boodle, or 'rubber accounts.' Mayor Ellyson of Richmond, Va., informed the commission 'that one of the great dangers to our institutions is the corrupt control of city and state bodies by corporations possessed of or seeking to secure public franchises.' At Wheeling, where the city owns the gas works and the board of control, by act of incorporation, must be made up of both political parties, the gas works are not mentioned at the municipal election. The superintendent declared 'that the very fact of the gas works being in public hands is forcing civil service reform to the front.' Mr. R. Alstattar, superintendent of the Hamilton (O.) Works, said: 'Qualification is what we expect. The general belief was that the old private company used money and misstatements corruptly to gain their points with councils.' Is there any one in Cincinnati who entertains the least doubt of the corrupt practices of the gas company? It buys, threatens and outlaws. Does any man in Cincinnati question whose money was busy yesterday 'controlling results'? While the economists of the association were pursuing their inquiries, the attorney of a gas monopoly confessed that not a year had elapsed, during his incumbency, in which his company had not felt itself forced to resort to the bribery of city councils to secure favors and to protect itself from unscrupulous raids. Others made similar admissions. No citizen of Cincinnati, with his eyes open, can be blind to the corrupting influence of local monopolies upon political races and results. The dividends are so vast that cupidity can scarcely resist the temptation to control primaries and polls.

THE SOMERVILLE NATIONALIST CLUB.

The Nationalist club of Somerville met Monday evening at the residence of Mrs. E. J. Paine, Morrison street. The two parlors were well filled and the meeting was very interesting and profitable. Mrs. S. H. Merrifield delivered an address on nationalism and answered some of the stock objections raised against nationalism by advocates of the present economic system. The Somerville club is growing in influence.

THE MASSACHUSETTS SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

The socialist labor party in Massachusetts is taking steps to put a state ticket in the field next autumn. Their platform endorses many of the nationalists' practical propositions, and this service will be a distinct contribution toward the breaking down of a vicious economic system and the substitution of an economic democracy.

Judge Dickinson of Duluth, Minn., has decided that the city has no right to grant franchises to gas and water works companies for 30 years.

NATIONALISTIC DRIFT.

Items of Industrial, Political, Social and Commercial Intelligence indicating the approaching Breakup of the Present System and the Tendency through Business Combinations and Public Control of Industry toward Complete National Co-operation.

Illinois.

Chicago Daily Press: When will the people rise in their sovereignty and demand public control of public facilities. When will the people declare for municipal control of the street-car service?

Chicago's municipal water works is not only self-sustaining, but pays for its own extension of 50 miles of pipe and plant a year.

The price of anthracite coal has been advanced 50 cents a ton in Chicago. The advance is said to be due to an order from President McLeod of the Reading trust, to the Chicago agents, to advance prices to the retail dealers.

The Municipal Gas league of Chicago now numbers 12,000, and is rapidly growing. It proposes to ask the next Legislature to grant to the city the right to own and control its own gas plants. The Inter-Ocean, Tribune, News, and Herald will use their influence in this direction. Prof. Colbert is now making an investigation for the Tribune to ascertain the cost of making gas, in order to show how much the city might gain by manufacturing its own gas. The people are greatly interested in the proposition for municipal gas, and a Chicago correspondent to a Boston paper says: "It will be a fight of the people on one side, and the \$44,000,000 trust on the other."

New York.

The Senate committee for investigating the Reading combine reports the combination contrary to public policy and inimical to the public welfare.

Florida.

About a year ago the leading dealers in Key West sponges formed a trust for the openly avowed purpose of preventing any outside the combination from buying these sponges. The trust appointed one of their vessel-owners as sole buyer for the company, and he paid prices above that which the fisherman had ever before received; the natural result was that all competitors were forced into the combination. Having thus destroyed all competition, the combine has now forced the prices paid to sponge fishermen to so low a point that they are upon the verge of starvation.

Kansas.

Mills' Weekly World, Oswego: A bill is before the Massachusetts Legislature to provide for the establishment of municipal coal yards where coal will be sold to the consumer at cost, and the widow who buys by the dimes' worth will receive the same consideration and rates as the man who buys by the car load. Nationalism is at work among the Puritans.

Pennsylvania.

Spreckles, the sugar king, having sold out to the sugar trust, his enormous refinery at Philadelphia has been closed and the help paid off and discharged. The consumer must now support Spreckels in ease.

Progressive Age (Minneapolis): If you want an argument in favor of municipal ownership of gas, electric, water and street railway plants, ask for the cost as taxed by the private corporations and compare that cost with what it costs the citizens where these things are owned by the cities. It costs from two to six times as much for the ordinary com-

forts of city life when a private corporation furnishes them as it does where the business is owned and managed by the city. This has been demonstrated beyond a doubt.

Ohio.

Cincinnati has been paying \$144 per annum to the Cincinnati Electric Light company, and the citizens have been contending that the price was exorbitant. The old contract having expired, bids have been received from three companies. The first was from Jones' Brothers Electric light company, and was \$112; the second was \$93.75 from the company whose contract has recently expired, and the third was from the Cincinnati Edison Electric Light company, which was \$84.90 per lamp per annum. It is estimated that about 2000 lamps will be required, thus the reduction in price means a saving to the city of \$118,200 yearly.

The Senate has passed a bill granting all street railways an extension of franchise from 25 to 99 years. When it came up in the House, an attempt was made to have it referred to the committee on corporations, instead of being sent to the committee on railroads and telegraphs, where it belonged under the rules, as the former was favorable to monopolies, while the latter was known not to be. After a hot fight it was sent to the proper committee, and this victory would seem to indicate that the bill will be killed in the House.

Carthage has voted 399 to 50 in favor of issuing bonds to the amount of \$15,000 for the establishment of a municipal lighting plant. Mr. Ryan, agent and manager of the local gas company, together with 13 others who were induced to join with him by the promise that they should not be called upon to share any of the expense, has served a petition upon the village solicitor requesting him to institute legal proceedings in the name of the village, to restrain the issue of bonds, as voted, on the ground that the law does not authorize such action. Many citizens are in favor of calling a mass meeting and demanding that the council discontinue the use of gas in the street lamps, and use coal oil until the electric light plant can be constructed.

Miscellaneous.

Journal Knights of Labor: The private possession of a nation's resources is a shame to civilization. It is based upon a society divided into hostile classes, and a constant threat to social peace and prosperity. Wars will not cease, mankind as such will not be happy and thrifty, unless society becomes the possessor of all wealth. Millionairism must and will be abolished!

San Francisco Star: "Max O'Rell," says that "the people will insist that those who derive an income from the land shall give an account of their stewardship," that the most conservative people in France — the religious — "will one day admit that the land will never be sold forever and ever," but "will eventually revert to the people;" and that "even in England the system is beginning to prevail."

Fall River (Mass.) Herald: Many Fall River people are deeply interested in the attempt of the nationalists to secure legislative sanction to the establishment of municipal coal yards. Of the 25,000 signatures obtained to the petition submitted two months ago, about 4000 represent Fall River advocates of the scheme. The committee on mercantile affairs submitted an adverse report, but a substitute bill has been prepared that confers power on cities and towns to purchase, sell and distribute fuel. The friends of the bill say that they expect it will pass the House.

Foreign.

The Worker's Co-operative Omnibus society of London has its first vehicle in operation. The employees are to work only nine hours per day, while those of the other companies work 12. No dividends are to be paid on shares, but the profits will be used to extend the business.

The New Nation's Department of Education.

THE NEW NATION has not been run to make money. The function of THE NEW NATION seems to be as an educator, and it is only too glad to perform that service for the public.

For a limited number of weeks we will give our readers the benefit of the reductions which we have been fortunate enough to secure from various publishing houses on certain books and periodicals that have a place in public estimation. Some of these publications are not strictly nationalistic, but they are read by our friends either for the information they contain on economic subjects or as a means of keeping informed as to the trend of popular sentiment on nationalism, or because they are standard works.

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THE NEW NATION, yearly subscription	\$2.00
The Arena magazine, yearly subscription	5.00
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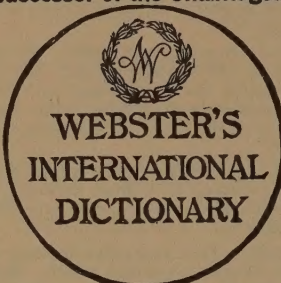
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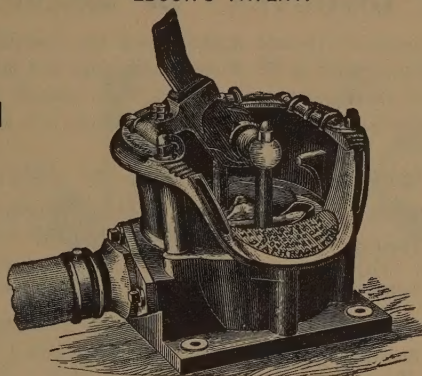
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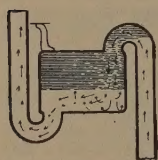
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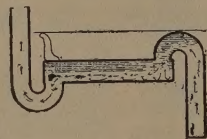
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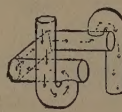
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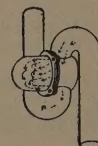
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